

HOW THE 27th FOUGHT TOLD IN OFFICIAL CITATIONS



WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1919

New York's Fighting Men Have History of Valor In Letters of Tribute From Allies' Commanders

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM GEN. PERSHING

(Dated Oct. 19, 1918.)



"COMMANDING GENERAL, 27th Division:
The following repeated for your information: 'No. 160,603. The Commander in Chief desires you to convey to the officers and soldiers of your corps his appreciation of the magnificent qualities which have enabled them, against powerful resistance, to advance more than ten miles and to take more than six thousand prisoners since Sept. 27th.'

"Add: 27th and 50th Divs., II. American Corps."

WHAT part the plugging, fighting, valorous 27th Division played in the great war will come to be told in our American histories and, long before that, in thousands of American homes by returned veterans of the engagements in which that division fought. There is another page, however, upon which its valor already is written, a page filled with official communications from great Generals, leaders of the Allied armies, phrased in the stiff formality of military correspondence, but warmed by deserved praise and impulsive enthusiasm that glows even in the printed line. Witness the brief but unmistakably inspired official telegram from Gen. Pershing printed in the box above. Witness also that other official telegram, the one from Sir Douglas Haig, printed at the head of the opposite column of this page. Tributes from men who watched—who watched because upon results obtained by these fighting men great military issues hung.

Read also the official communications and citations which follow, penned by other military leaders, inspired to praise by the way the 27th fought. They tell a story—a story which, in the following letter, Gen. O'Ryan, the 27th's own commander, outlines in a few hundred words:

A BIT OF THE 27TH'S HISTORY, WRITTEN BY ITS COMMANDER, MAJOR GEN. JOHN F. O'RYAN.

Headquarters, 27th Division, U. S. A., American E. F., France,
October 24, 1918.

(Bulletin No. 102.)

SINCE the 25th of September—a period of nearly a month—the division has been engaged almost continuously in fighting and marching. Some of this fighting involved a leading role in one of the fiercest battles of the war—the breaking of the great Hindenburg defense line. We have suffered the loss of some of our best officers and men, but unfortunately such losses are incidental to battles of such magnitude. Only divisions highly trained and disciplined, possessing the greatest confidence and morale and at the very top notch of their strength could have accomplished what the division and our comrades of the 30th Division accomplished in the great battle. Only such divisions could have met the sacrifices demanded, and with morale unimpaired have renewed the advance in the manner characteristic of the operations of the past two weeks.

This is not the occasion to describe the Hindenburg defenses or the details of the battle for breaking them. That will doubtless be done after the war. The same comment applies to the details of the operations since that engagement. Nevertheless, the division commander cannot withhold this expression of his admiration and respect for the valor and discipline as well as the endurance and spirit manifested by officers and men throughout this long period of fighting. These sentiments are stimulated by the events of the past week. When reduced in numbers, the division attacked the enemy, took the town of St. Souplet, forced the crossing of the Selle River, and against strong opposition successfully assaulted the heights on the other side. Since that date the division has attacked daily, taking by force the town of Arbre Guernon and a number of strongly fortified farms, and forcing a withdrawal of the enemy to the Canal de la Sambre.

In his latter advance the division captured more than 1,400 German officers and enlisted men and a vast amount of military property, including field guns, a great number of machine guns both light and heavy, anti-tank guns, trench mortars, dumps of ammunition and railroad rolling stock. In all this fighting the character of the enemy's resistance and the extent of his losses are indicated by the large number of enemy dead on the field. The efforts of the past month constitute a record to be proud of, and their value is indicated in the commendatory letter from the Commander in Chief of the British expeditionary forces which has been published for the information of the division. Officers and men have justified the estimate made by the division when after its arrival in France it was selected to hold the Mont Kemmel sector against the expected great effort of the enemy to drive through to the sea. They have justified the opinions of their fighting qualities formed when this crisis, with the evacuation of Mont Kemmel had passed and the division promptly attacked and took Vierstraet Ridge, being, with the 20th Division on our left, the first American troops to fight on Belgian territory.

JOHN F. O'RYAN, Major General.

Now we'll let leaders of the British and Australian Armies, whose men fought shoulder to shoulder with our doughboys of the 27th, add their word of praise. But first, here's an official British report to praise their communications:

OFFICIAL BRITISH REPORT.

Saturday night, Oct. 26, 1918.

IN the course of the last three weeks the 27th and the 30th Divisions of the 2d American Corps, operating with the 4th British Army, have taken part with great gallantry and success in three major offensive operations, besides being engaged in a number of lesser attacks. In the course of this fighting they have displayed soldierly qualities of a high order and have materially assisted in the success of our attacks.

Having fought with the utmost dash and bravery in the great attack of Sept. 29, in which the Hindenburg line was broken, and having on that occasion captured the villages of Bellecourt and Nauroy, with a large number of prisoners, on Oct. 5, the troops of the 2d American Corps again attacked in the neighborhood of Montbreham. In three days of successful fighting they completed an advance of 15 miles from Maion to St. Souplet, overcoming determined resistance and capturing several strongly defended villages and woods.

Throughout the past three days the 2d American Corps has again attacked daily and on each occasion with complete success, though the enemy's resistance has been most obstinate. Fighting their way forward from St. Souplet to the high ground west of the Sambre Canal, they have

Battles, Engagements and Minor Actions Of the 27th Division in Belgium and France

BATTLE. HINDENBURG LINE.

(Vicinity of Bony), France, Sept. 29-30, 1918

THE Battle of Hindenburg Line was a prepared attack; the 3d British Corps on our left, the 2d American Corps, the Australian Corps, the 9th British Corps, participating, in connection with other British Troops to the left and the 10th French Army to the right.

BATTLE. LA SELLE RIVER.

(Vicinity of St. Souplet), France, Oct. 17, 1918

THE battle of La Selle River was a prepared attack, the enemy having made a determined stand, using the stream as a defense, the 3d British Corps, the 2d American Corps, the 9th British Corps, participating, in connection with the 10th French Army to the right.

BATTLE. JONC DE MER RIDGE.

(Vicinity of Arbre Guernon), France, Oct. 18, 1918

THE battle of Junc de Mer Ridge was a prepared attack, the 3d British Corps, 2d American Corps, 9th British Corps, 10th French Army, participating.

ENGAGEMENT. VIERSTRAAT RIDGE.

(Vicinity of Mont Kemmel), Belgium, Aug. 31 to Sept. 2, 1918.

THE engagement of Vierstraet Ridge was an advance to occupy this ridge and Mont Kemmel, from which the enemy was believed to be retiring.

The enemy was found to be withdrawing his main force to Wyschaet Ridge, but leaving machine gun nests to hold as long as possible, and keeping the whole terrain covered with artillery fire.

Our troops continued a following action with artillery and machine gun preparation and action, meeting strong resistance, including counter-attacks by enemy infantry, to east slope of Vierstraet Ridge.

The 30th Division (American) on our left, the 34th British

Division on our right, and other corps of 2d British Army further south, participated in this engagement.

ENGAGEMENT. THE KNOLL-GUILLEMONT FARM-QUENEMONT FARM.

France, Sept. 27, 1918.

THIS operation was a planned attack with tanks, artillery and machine gun barrage to capture the strong advance line of the Hindenburg System.

The 30th American Division on our right straightened their line, no other troops participating.

ENGAGEMENT. ST. MAURICE RIVER

(Vicinity of Catillon), France, Oct. 19-20, 1918.

THE engagement of St. Maurice River was an advance, including an attack of machine gun nests with enemy infantry and artillery resistance, to the line of the St. Maurice Stream. (Troops participating: 3d British Corps, 2d American Corps, 9th British Corps.)

MINOR ACTION. EAST POPERINGHE LINE

July 9 to Aug. 20, 1918.

THIS action consisted of constructing and occupying the second position opposite Mont Kemmel during a time when the enemy was expected to make heavy attacks. The position was under close observation from Mont Kemmel and was subjected to observed artillery fire by day and continued fire by night, inflicting daily casualties.

MINOR ACTION. DICKEBUSCH SECTOR

Belgium, Aug. 21-30, 1918.

THIS action consisted of holding the Dickebusch Sector (vicinity of Dickebusch Lake) from Ime, repelling raids, making raids and patrols, being under continued artillery and machine gun fire with perfect observation from enemy position on Mont Kemmel.

broken the enemy's resistance at all points, beating off many counter-attacks and realizing a further advance of nearly five miles.

Over five thousand prisoners and many guns have been taken by the 2d American Corps.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF THE BRITISH ARMIES.

Headquarters 2d Corps American Expeditionary Forces, France,
Nov. 18, 1918.

(General Orders, No. 44.)

THE following letter from the Commander in Chief of the British Armies to the Commanding General, 2d Corps, is published for the information of the officers and men of this command:

Now that the American 2d Corps is leaving the British zone, I wish

Fourteen Points for the League of Matrimony.

No. VII.—A WOMAN WILL ENDURE EVERYTHING EXCEPT BEING REFORMED.

The Way to Shop for a Mate Is to Select Him and Keep Him AS IS—Only Bargain Fiends Are Eternally Dragging Men Home and Taking Them Back to the Courts Later On to Be Exchanged for Something Better That Does Not Exist.

By Nixola Greeley-Smith

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JOSHUA was the only man who ever commanded the sun to stand still successfully. But every woman believes she can make the dynamo of our universe halt in its tracks. If she has the price of a permanent wave. For the benefit of the unsophisticated male reader I must explain that what she wants is artificially undulated hair, at \$3 a curl, guaranteed to stay put six months. The other day I met a married woman I know just emerging rejuvenated and radiant from a hairdresser, who had performed this high-priced miracle on her gray locks.

I don't admire permanent waves myself. In fact, I don't understand how human hair can be expected to take for hours and not look like a ravelled rope-end, the image all "permanent waves" bring to my mind. However, I praised the coiffeur's handiwork as heartily as I could and then asked:

"How do you think Bill will like it?"

"Bill?" repeated the made-over matron with the intention of good-humored patronage some women reserve for their husbands. "Why, Bill would never notice I'd had anything done to my hair, even if I had had my head shaved. Bill has just one idea about a woman's appearance. If she has on a black dress with white collar and cuffs, she's beautiful. If she has not, she does not exist for Bill. Why, I could have all my teeth taken out and he would not know anything about it till he heard from the dentist. Then he'd get mad."

As I had known Bill's wife for several years and had never seen her in a black dress with the white collar and cuffs, I concluded that she had given up all idea of pleasing him—

aspiring to moral dictatorship over decolees.

How often rage has struggled with amusement in my heart because I have looked up just in time to catch a husband's frantic sign to his wife about a loosened shoulder-strap, or an unconsciously daring skirt—rage because of the poor woman's humiliation and dismay, amusement because of the elaborate pantomime that focused the eyes of every observer on an indiscretion which might otherwise have passed unnoticed. And I have thought that in the heart of every old woman, however crowded with memories, there must be a secret altar built not to him she loved most nor to him who most loved her, but to the man who never undertook to reform her.

The wife who tries to reform a man has been shown the folly of her ways by moralists ever since the world began, but the husband who wants to reform his wife has gone unscathed. Yet he outnumbers women reformers a thousand to one. In fact, there is practically no man who enters matrimony without a touch of the uplift spirit. He may confine his efforts to teaching his wife what to read and to think, or he may extend his crusading efforts to the depth of her credulity and the height of her skirts. But in one way or another every husband is "a critic on the hearth."

Women have less desire to make over the men they acquire at the bargain counter of life. This may be because they are more experienced shoppers or because they do not expect flawlessness at bargain rates. However it is, the only way to shop successfully for a mate is to take him and keep him AS IS. When a woman sees those two little words on a folded length of silk she knows she will find a defect somewhere when she gets it home, but she relies upon her ability to make the material answer her purpose, flaw and all, and wastes no time grumbling about it

once she has paid down her money. Sensible women shop for husbands in the same spirit. Only bargain fiends are eternally dragging men home and taking them back to the divorce courts later on to be exchanged for something better, which does not exist. Perhaps some day we may limit the return privilege on husbands and wives, as we do now on dry goods. Department stores say women buy more carefully since they have been given just seven days in which to change their minds. Who knows but we might marry more cautiously if we could have a mate sent home on approval, with the privilege of exchanging him for another, should he prove less becoming than he seemed at the altar?

Perhaps it is because women are on the whole less egotistical than men that they show less of the reform spirit in marriage. Then, too, their imaginations have never been warped by Robinson Crusoe and they have no mania for acquiring a man Friday and telling him how to do things. Collectively, women may have begun to tilt against various windmills, but as individuals they still tend to accept the man life gives them as he is, and to believe, or at least pretend to believe, that he is the noblest specimen of the human race.

Another reason why women are less apt to become domestic dictators than men is because no man worthy of the name would endure what many women take as a matter of course—constant daily criticism in their smallest, most personal affairs.

Some women will endure being beaten, some really enjoy being browbeaten, but even in the trials of patient Griselda, which included taking away her children and pretending they had been killed, it is not recorded that her husband ventured to ensure her clothes. If he had, her name might have come down the ages with the red records of Joel, Judith, Charlotte Corday and other avenging spirits instead of tripping the model wife.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1919

27th's Part in Breaking Hindenburg Line Told With Unstinted Praise In Official Messages

OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM SIR DOUGLAS HAIG

Field Marshal, Commander in Chief, British Expeditionary Forces.

(Dated Oct. 20, 1918.)



"GENERAL READ, II. American Corps—I wish to express to you personally and to all the officers and men serving under you my warm appreciation of the very valuable and gallant services rendered by you throughout the recent operations with the 4th British Army. Called upon to attack positions of great strength held by a determined enemy, all ranks of the 27th and 30th American Divisions, under your command, displayed an energy, courage and determination in attack which proved irresistible. It does not need me to tell you that in the heavy fighting of the past three weeks you have earned the lasting esteem and admiration of your British comrades in arms, whose success you have so nobly shared."

D. HAIG.

St. Souplet and Mazinghen testify to the dash and energy of your attacks. I rejoice at the success which has attended your efforts and I am proud to have had you under my command.

D. HAIG, Field Marshal.

EXTRACTS FROM AN OFFICIAL TELEGRAM FROM GEN. H. L. RAWLINSON, COMMANDER OF THE FOURTH BRITISH ARMY.

NOW that the American Corps has come out of the line for a well-earned period of rest and training, I desire to place on record my appreciation of the great gallantry and the fine soldierly spirit they have displayed throughout the recent hard fighting.

The breaking of the great Hindenburg system of defense, coupled with the capture of Grandcourt, Busigny and St. Souplet, and finally the forcing the passage of the La Selle constitute a series of victories of which each officer, N. C. O. and man have every reason to feel proud.

The efficiency with which the staff work of the Corps has been carried out on this first experience as a fighting Corps in the line of battle has filled me with admiration, and I attribute it largely to the zeal and unity of purpose which has throughout animated the whole Corps.

The outstanding feature of their recent victories has been the surprising gallantry and self sacrifice of the regimental officers and men. I congratulate them on their prowess and on the one and all my warmest thanks for the leading part they have taken in the recent operations.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL 3d AUSTRALIAN DIVISION.

MAJOR GEN. J. F. O'RYAN, 27th Division, FRANCE, Oct. 14, 1918.

General: On behalf of all ranks of the 3d Australian Division, I desire to express our sincere appreciation of the fighting qualities displayed by the 27th Division U. S. on the 27th and 28th September last. The gallant manner in which your troops faced an extremely difficult task, the determination of their attacks on a strongly entrenched position, and the undaunted spirit with which they met their losses make us hope that we shall again have the honor of fighting alongside the Division under your command. The confidence of the men in their officers appealed to us as particularly a happy omen for the future success of the 27th.

Very respectfully,
I. GELLIBRAND,
Major General, Commanding 3d Australian Division.

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CORPS.

Australian Corps, Corps Headquarters, and October, 1918.

MY Dear General: As the 2d American Corps has now been withdrawn from the line, and my official association with you and your troops has been, for the time being, suspended, I desire to express to you the great pleasure that it has been to me and to the troops of the Australian Army Corps to have been so closely allied to you in the recent very important battle operations which have resulted in the breaking through of the main Hindenburg Line on the front of the Fourth British Army.

Now that fuller details of the work done by the 27th and 30th American Divisions have become available, the splendid gallantry and devotion of the troops in these operations have won the admiration of their Australian comrades. The tasks set were formidable, but the American troops overcame all obstacles and contributed in a very high degree to the ultimate capture of the whole tunnel system.

I shall be glad if you convey to your Division Commanders my appreciation of the work they have done and to accept my best wishes for every possible success in the future. Yours very sincerely,
JOHN MONAGHAN.

Major Gen. G. W. Read, N. A.

Commanding II. American Corps. In communicating to you this expression of sentiments of the Commander of the Australian Corps, the Corps Commander desires to make known to you his appreciation of the splendid fighting qualities of your division, and of the results they accomplished in their part in breaking this formidable portion of the Hindenburg Line. It is undoubtedly due to the troops of this Corps that the line was broken and the operations now going on made possible.

The unfettered determination of these men, their gallantry in battle and the results accomplished, are an example for the future. They will have their place in history and must always be a source of pride to our people.

STEPHEN C. CLARK, Adjutant General.

A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER OF AN AUSTRALIAN MACHINE GUN BATTALION.

Sept. 30, 1918.

TO THE Commanding General, 27th Division: In making a personal reconnaissance of the battlefield east and northeast of Duncourt Post on the morning of Sept. 30, it was evident from the onset the troops of the 27th Division had met with very heavy opposition and machine gun fire which was outstanding. There was a very large number of dead all of which were lying with their faces toward the front, obviously being killed as they were advancing. Not in any one case was there a man moving backward when killed. Owing to gun fire which proved disastrous. Although the 27th Division may have been all objectives in all parts, it is very evident that by their gallant fighting on the left flank, they enabled the 30th Division on their right to do what they had set out to do, viz., to break the Hindenburg Line. Without being impossible for the 30th Division to advance.

I am convinced that the efforts and men of the 27th Division have done all that was humanly possible, for brave men to do, and their gallantry in this action must stand out through all time in American history.

H. MURRAY,
Lieutenant Colonel, V. C., D. S. O., Barr, D. C. M., Commanding 4th Australian Machine Gun Battalion.